

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: NUBER et al

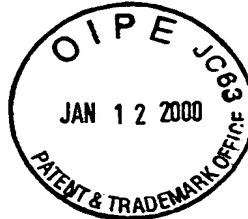
Serial No.: 08/928,664

Filed: September 12, 1997

For: Covering Device For An Opening In the Outer Shell
Of A Motor Vehicle

Group: 3752

Examiner: Kevin Weldon

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Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 12, 2000

Sir:

In response to the requirement in the interview summary dated January 11, 2000 to file a statement of the substance of the interview, applicants, through their undersigned attorney, submit the following summary of the personal interview conducted between the Examiner, Kevin Weldon, and the undersigned on January 11, 2000.

During the interview, the undersigned explained the present invention and the differences between the present invention and the prior art, in particular, the patents to Epple et al, Nullet and Costa et al. In particular, the undersigned noted that, according to the present invention, the positioning of the hinged door of the covering device in relation to the opening in the outer panel of the motor vehicle is independent of the fastening of the hinge. This is achieved, according to the present invention, by using a mounting frame which fits securely into the opening and providing the door so that it

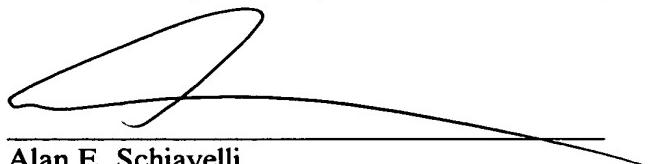
is hinged to the mounting frame, the door having a closed position in which the door completely covers the mounting frame and the opening into which it fits, and a release position in which the door swings outward from the opening.

The Examiner, noting the differences between the present invention and the prior art, indicated that the prior art of record did not anticipate or suggest the present invention.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 323.35634X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



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